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March 2007

E51 NORTH AND SOUTH BY BOB E51PDX / E51YAQ (W7YAQ)

We are pleased to announce our Guest Speaker Bob Norin and his wife Kay will be joining us from the Willamette Valley DX Club for this month's presentation.

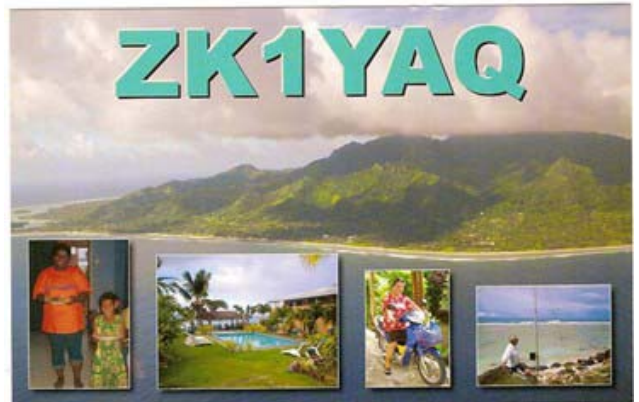
Bob is a well known DXer who enjoys traveling light and being heard.

Bob W7YAQ and Bill N7OU returned from the North and South Cook Islands last November where they not only made it into the logs as new ones for a lot of DXers but participated in CQWW CW.

I (K7LAZ) personally know it is fun to work these great ops from anywhere but it was especially fun to dial into the propagation (thanks VE7XF!) and work a new multiplier from VP5W.

Let's show them a big welcome and hear about DXing and contesting from the other end.

Here's a QSL From Bob and Bill's Feb 2006 trip and looking forward to the November 2006 DXpedition to the North and South Cooks as a new prefix E51.



Angelo's Restaurant
601 SW 153rd,
Burien, Washington 98166
206-244-3555

Pacific Northwest DX Convention - August 10-12

Mark your calendars!

The 2007 PNW DX Convention will be held on August 10th through 12th at the Everett, WA Holiday Inn (just off I-5 exit #193).

A block of rooms is reserved at \$109 per night until July 17, 2007. The direct telephone number for the hotel is 1-425-339-2000 or 1-800-860-7715. To get the special room rate, you MUST call one of these phone numbers. Ask for the rate for the "WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB".

More information will be posted on the WWDXC web page, here in the *Tabloid* and on the club's email reflector (wwdxc@yahoo.com) in the coming months.....

Puyallup Fleamarket – March 10, 2007

By <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

The Mike & Key Electronics Show & Fleamarket is one of the largest annual Amateur Radio events in the Pacific Northwest. It is held on the Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup during the first part of March, up to 3,000 Hams and non-Hams alike are drawn to a modern 40,000 square foot facility located on two floors of the Exhibition Hall with room for over 300 tables selling radios, computers, and general electronics equipment. Lots of radio and computer related items are available for sale and/or trade. Check out their flyer at <http://www.mikeandkey.org/FLYER2007.pdf>

There is an on-site snack bar and a consignment area. License examinations are also given on-site.

- Saturday, March 10, 2007
- Ticket Sales open at 8:00 AM; Doors open at 9:00 AM
- Most Dealers Close at 3:00 PM

PAVILION EXHIBITION HALL
WESTERN WASHINGTON FAIRGROUNDS
9th Avenue SE. & Meridian Street South
PUYALLUP, WA 98372
<http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

New WWDXC Website

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY

Check out the new www.wwdxc.org website the next time you're cruising around the internet. We're still adding content – but you should be able to find most of your usual needs there. If you'd like a login to help with submitting history, stories, articles, etc. please contact Brian Moran, N9ADG, brianmo@yahoo.com.

Contest Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

There were a bunch of tests this past month – 2 of which counted towards the Northwest Trophy Competition. I really want to thank Hillar for doing the scores summaries on the WWDXC reflector – I haven't had the time or enthusiasm. On to the scores.

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

Call	QSOs	Pts	Prfxs	hr	Score
~~~~~					
All SOAB HP					
N7BF	667	1195	302	25	360,890
K7EG	417	2	247	11	208,715
All SOAB LP					
NG7Z	227	426	137	8	58,362
KT7G	197	369	134		49,446
All SOSB/20 HP					
NN7SS(K6UFO)	100	148	73	2	10,804

CQ WW RTTY WPX Soapbox

K7EG : Nice EU openings in AM and good JA runs. Limited operating schedule.

NG7Z : I didn't intend to spend 8 hours on this contest. But I was having WAY too much fun to stop. First time RTTY WPX and it was a blast. It was nice to be wanted for a change. A very nice run towards the end of the contest. Hopefully, next year I'll have a beam up again and more time available. Just too much else to do around the house. Thanks for the q's and see you in the CW portion.  
73 Paul NG7Z

NN7SS : Well, I only got two hours in and the computer went haywire. The PC would lockup and then not boot up correctly. That ended the contest for me, and I spent the next two days to fix the computer, finally completely reloading Windows and the software I needed. It was two hours of RTTY fun, and two days of computer frustration... See you next contest. Mark NN7SS (op K6UFO)

2007 ARRL DX CW

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score
~~~~~				
All M/S HP				
NN7SS	892	260	34	692,640
N7YX	200	143		85,800
All SOAB HP				
W7VJ	1283	240	26	923,760
K7ZA	784	214		502,686
W7OM	536	204		327,420
N6MZ	528	193		305,712
K7LAZ	552	167	26	276,051
N7BV	548	156		249,444
N7BF	409	147	22	180,369
K7EG	318	140	15	133,560
K7RI	252	112		84,672
K7SS	200	100		60,000
WA7AVL	202	87		52,722
AA7PM	117	58		20,358
All SOAB LP				
N7ZG	513	149	36	229,311
NG7Z	257	106	7.25	81,408
W7GTO	139			27,105

W7TMT	22	9	1	594
All SOAB QRP				
K7HBN	214	93	25	59,706
All SOAB(A) LP				
N7XY	157	82		38,622
KT7G	152	64		29,184
All SOSB/20 HP				
K7RL	1047	108		339,228
W7WA	1000	111		333,000
All SOSB/40 LP				
K7WA	102	39		11,934
All SOSB/160 HP				
N9ADG	14	11		462

ARRL DX CW Soapbox

NN7SS: After recovering from computer problems the previous weekend, everything worked fine this weekend. The rebuilt 160m inverted L gave a fine showing piloted by Ward N0AX to 5 countries including the VK9DNX. 80m and 40m were fine considering we didn't spend any time there the second night. We're thrilled to have made a DXCC 100 countries on 20m! 15m provided surprisingly well, and even 10m made a brief showing. I thank Ward N0AX and Doug KO7P for helping, so I could sleep and run some errands. DXCC in a weekend - not bad for the sunspot minimum from W7!

W7VJ: Unreal for the bottom of the cycle.

K7EG: Good openings to all continents. I even caught some good action on 10. Good to hear old friends (past and present) in the contest. As usual had several diversions this weekend which limited participation.

K7LAZ: Needed 3 countries more for 80 meters DXCC and claimed them in this contest. Now to get the cards. Also worked all time new one 5T5DY on 40 meters. If the 80 meter Steppir coil had been ready it would have been an all band effort on SteppIr antennas except for 160 which I did not attempt this contest. My best effort to date since starting in 2003. Sure a lot of loud JA's running 5-20 watts. Not sure how the guys go the full time, I was tired with only 26 hours at the rig.

N7ZG: Good fun. The bad news first: I had the opportunity to take a short notice vacation to Hawai'i with my XYL and wee ones. This put some constraints on my contest prep time as I returned on the Wednesday before the contest. My antennas cannot be permanently installed (per CC&R's), so I have alot of prep todo's for contests. I staged the K1WA on the nested tower to help save time. I got the antenna at full height on Friday a few hours before contest start to find that my rotator wouldn't work. I frantically tried to find and fix the problem, including borrowing a rotator control box from Dink, N7WA (thanks dude), but alas the problem is at the top of the tower. :-(- The SteppIR was fixed pretty much east-west. The 180 swap feature could be employed to cover JA/OC or the Caribbean/SA/AF at the push of a button, but EU was out of the question. I figured that since there is no EU on 15 for the most part, I would work as many of the big gun mults as possible and try to make up the Q's somewhere else. The good news: I ended up pretty much matching last years effort in Q's and mults with the corressponding contest score. Actually I had a few more than last year. The activity on the low bands made up for the overall deficit of 20M Q's. I would have rather had the main antenna working with another 100 or so additional Q's in the log. I use the goal setting feature in N1MM to push me from hour to hour (Note to self: pad these goals a little year over year, especially as the spots come back). Most times I was easily ahead of goal, especially during the evening hours with 40 open nicely. It was hard (as expected) when scratching them out on 20 to EU in the morning. This was the time I really needed the yagi on target. Lesson learned and note to self #2. Check the antennas fully a few weeks ahead of the contest.

The really good news: I'm amazed at how propagation works. Especially during these so called lean years of low sunspots. I enjoy being busier during the evening hours while the low bands are hot. I suppose as age takes its toll I will get more sleep when the spots return. The low bands were good both days with Sunday being better (Ostensibly the K was lower on Sunday, so not surprising). I worked a few EU on 40 (that is a big deal here in the Pacific NW). I did manage to work V31 and C6 on 160. Sunday morning yielded 5 JA's. Not bad for a half sloper. I managed some decent slow runs on 40 to JA late on the second late night stint. It seemed that just as my rate was getting going, some stateside lid would encroach on my QRG. Mistakes happen when you move in behind a null in my pattern (or inside the skip zone), but guys (and this is the key),,, move off when you are called on it.

NG7Z: Did pretty well I think considering limited time available for the contest. With no beam anymore, I can sure see the difference in the number of repeats asked. Spent a good deal of time on 15M as it was open to SA and the Carribean for several hours each day. All contacts were S&P except for a short JA run Saturday afternoon. Thanks to the wonderful ops who stayed with me during the numerous repeats. There's some good ears out there.

K7WA: Personal best from city QTH with Force12 40XK temporary vertical set up on the deck. Special thanks to Jazz the cat for waking me up both nights to chase DX, and thanks to all those DX Ops with good ears!!

K7RL: This year I decided to try a 20m SB effort thinking it was the best chance for the most action. The best action was limited to the short EU and JA openings; everything in between was low rate S&P. The last few hours of the contest were brutally slow, as was negotiating some of the massive pile-ups. Some DX stations would rarely sign, and when they finally did, many loud stations called right over the top making it difficult to get the call – that seemed to go on endlessly. Some pile-ups were so big and unruly that I had to come back later. But that didn't always work as the DX station was gone when I came back. Many mults were missed that way. In hindsight, I should have stuck it out in the pile-up. Other interesting notes: Dupes, dupes, dupes (one station worked me four times!); flutter on the EU signals Sunday morning; rain static; computer crashes/glitches (sorry WHOS!); and key clicks. Compliments to all the FB ops! Thank you for the Q!

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB

Call	QSOs	StPrv	DX	hr	Score	Club
~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~
All Single Op HP						
N7BF	78	26	3	6.8	5,887	WDXC
All Single Op LP						
NG7Z	36	14	1	1.75	1,425	WDXC

**CQ 160M SSB Soapbox**

NG7Z: Yawn....I'll never be good on this band. I get too sleepy.

**North American QSO Party, RTTY**

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score	Club/Team
~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~
All Single Op LP					
W7OM	483	128	8.6	61,824	WDXC
NG7Z	230	92	6.22	21,160	WDXC

NAQP RTTY Soapbox

NG7Z: Between splitting wood, visiting my Mom, stacking wood, napping, not a bad score. Thanks for the Q's

Logbook of the World – What is it? Who needs it?

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY

Since September of 2003 radio amateurs have had an alternative to the costly and slow paper QSL route. The ARRL launched their Logbook of the World (LOTW) – a secure online method of confirming contacts between radio stations. After signing up and going through a few steps to insure that stations are actually who they say they are (they don't want someone signing up as P51DX and confirming bogus QSOs...) the system allows for the instantaneous confirmation of contacts.

Basically it takes the uploaded logs of hams around the world and compares them to see where QSOs match. When they do, the contact is “confirmed” in the database. These confirmations can then be used to add to your DXCC total in the official ARRL database (rates start at 25 cents for a single credit and with volume discounts go down to as low as 15 cents when you buy 500 credits). These rates are much cheaper than the cost of printing QSLs, sending them to the bureau, QSL manager, or direct with a SASE. Plus, they are guaranteed successful – no lost envelopes or tardy QSLs.

In my case, I have 28,151 QSOs uploaded and included in the LOTW database. Of those, 2,196 match up with QSOs that others have uploaded (meaning that these are “confirmed” QSOs) and include 123 different DXCC countries. Some of them are “keepers” too! Like the confirmation for BS7H on Scarborough Reef back in 1997 or D25L in Angola or TY5A in Benin or D68C in Comoros or VKØIR on Heard Island, etc. etc. etc. It's fun to look over the list and see who has uploaded their QSOs to the database and confirmed contacts with me. The only downside is not having the beautiful QSLs for wallpaper in the shack...

Check out the next article here in the *Tabloid* to get a start on signing up for the LOTW if you haven't already.

Logbook of the World Sign-up – Step Ø

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY

The Logbook of the World (aka LOTW – www.arrl.org/lotw/) is something that everyone in our club should participate in. It's free. It is a much easier (and less expensive!) way to confirm our QSOs with stations around the world. It's a good way to get confirmations on contacts that we make with DXpeditions and DX stations.

March Assignment

- **Make sure your logging software can produce an ADIF format file of your log.**
- **For Extra Credit – Update your logging software to the most recent version.**

There's absolutely no downside to it. Well... Maybe one downside – many of us have struggled with the red tape involved in signing up with LOTW (a necessary evil in order to be sure the system is protected from dishonesty). Personally, I found the steps of the process to be a bit bewildering at times - downloading files, sending emails, getting postcards, running programs, uploading files... And all of that has to be done BEFORE you even get to the point of submitting your list of QSOs! YOW!

Well, those confusing days are over! The Totem Tabloid's crack technical staff will be walking you through the entire process during the next few months. One step at a time until

we're all done and have our logs included in the LOTW!

This month is **Step Zero – Update your logging software**. For the purposes of the Logbook of the World, you are going to have to have a computerized log. If you are logging on paper with stacks of paper logbooks filling your basement, then you are just out of luck. Sorry.

But for the majority of you who do use a computer to log, this might be a good time to look into updating your logging software so that it's the most recent version available. Some of the software has improved in recent updates to make submission of new contacts a one button operation after you are registered with LOTW.

Your **minimum assignment for the month of March** is to be sure your logging software is capable of producing an ADIF file of your log (you need to submit your data in ADIF format). Check your software's help screens or manual for information on ADIF. You might also find “Export to ADIF” as an option under the

“file” menu item at the top of the page.

For extra credit – update your logging software to the most recent version. Not sure where to get your update? Check out <http://www.ac6v.com/logging.htm> for a large list of logging programs with links to their homepages.

I use DX4WIN to log my QSOs (I use TRLog for contests and then import the QSOs into DX4WIN). I checked and found that I’m using version 5.03 of DX4WIN and that the most recent update is 7.02! YOW! Computer years are like dog years – going from version 5.03 to 7.02 is a huge jump. I’m sure they must have improved the software since May of 2001...

So after you have your assignment completed – check back here next month for **Step 1 – Installing TQSL** when we’ll really start the process of getting LOTW installed on your computer and your QSOs uploaded to the database!

Totem Trader

Heavy duty mast with 1/4 inch wall. OD 2.375 inches. Make offer. Rod W7OM 206 937-9414

FOR SALE by Tom, K7RI 206 935-0457

4 Element SteppIR Yagis

Two assembled and stacked 4 element SteppIR yagis systems. Each has: N-connector upgrade; computer interface unit in the controller; accessory Y-cable for computer and radio control; an N8LP SteppIR tuning relay to prevent an amplifier from keying and thereby damaging the antenna when it is adjusting element lengths; and, additional boom guy truss enhancements. One antenna has ~140 feet of the 16 conductor control cable; the other has ~ 100 feet of same.

Must be picked up in West Seattle. Delivery to your local QTH a possibility WITHOUT having to disassemble the boom. In such case, simply reinstall the fiberglass element support tubes and an antenna will be ready to install on your tower. Furthermore, an inexpensive tower person is available to install the antenna(s) at your QTH if desired.

Price for each antenna if purchased new, including WA state sales tax: top antenna \$2,655.81; bottom antenna - \$2,622.08. Asking \$1,800 and \$1,775, respectively. Represents a discount of over 32% off new price.

Both antennas in the air and are fully operational. Serious prospective purchasers with funds available may make appointment to come and test antennas, if desired.

Also ...

MFJ-434 Voice Keyer	\$100 (~\$190 New)	
Heil Proset 4	\$50 (~\$140 New)	
Industrial Communications Engineers (ICE) Model 421 8KWPEP/4KWDC ICS Low Pass Filter (~\$65 New)		\$20
Two element 40 meter Yagi (Cushcraft 40-2CD). \$650 (New price ~\$1,000)		

Tom, K7RI
206 935-0457

DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies

By Bob Nielsen, N7XY n7xy@oz.net

W7DX Bellevue (AR-Cluster node) 145.75 MHz, N6MZ sysop.

Telnet to w7dx.net

User documents at <http://www.ab5k.net>

W7PKT Auburn (DX Spider Node) 145.73 MHz, KA7CSE sysop.

Telnet to w7pkt.net, port 7300

user documents at <http://www.dxcluster.org/main/usermanual.html>

N7XY Bainbridge Is. (DX Spider Node) 145.77 MHz, N7XY sysop.

Telnet to n7xy.net, port 7300

K7EK Spanaway (DX Spider node) K7ED Sysop.

Connect on 144.97 MHz to W7DK-5 and type "DXC" to connect to the cluster node.

Direct packet access on 145.71 MHz coming soon.

Telnet to k7ek.dyndns.org, port 9000

If you need help, email n7xy@oz.net.

Visalia International DX Convention 2007

From the Visalia DX Convention Committee

The 2007 International DX Convention will take place April 27, 28 & 29, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Visalia, California. This is an ARRL sanctioned convention that is sponsored this year by the Northern California DX Club. It is expected to draw visitors from around the World and will feature programs from recent DX-Peditions and contest operations.

The Convention theme this year is, "Elmering New DXers is Job Number One!" Accordingly, a portion of the programming will be devoted to helping new DXers learn about how to be noticed in a pile-up, snag a "new one" and get that elusive QSL card.

Other Convention offerings will include: DX, Top Band and Contest Forums, technical talks, many door prizes, both Friday and Saturday evening "attitude adjustments", Saturday Barbecue Lunch, Saturday night banquet, Sunday morning "power" breakfast, Vendors Exhibits and QSL card checking.

Current information and registration forms are available on the Convention web page, which can be found at www.dxconvention.org. Additional registration information can be obtained by contacting Convention Registration Chairman, Dick Letrich, W6KM via Email at dlw6km@aol.com.

If you're interested in DX or DXing, the Visalia International DX Convention is *the* place to be. We hope to see you there.

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Western Washington DX Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 395
Mercer Island, WA 98040

The Totem Tabloid

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The *Tabloid* depends on submissions of articles and news items from its readers. Send all items of interest to the *Tabloid* editor:

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Internet Access

Information on the Western Washington DX Club is also available on the internet at www.wwdxc.org or by email to info@wwdxc.org.